

Dear FAO Commerce Committee,

I am writing to urge you to please vote NO on HB 5263.

If passed, this bill will sentence thousands of innocent rabbits to a cruel, miserable existence of suffering and violent slaughter.

I object to this bill for many reasons:

Firstly, rabbits are intelligent and complex individuals who deserve so much more than to be used in this way. They are naturally fearful animals who do not cope well in a farming environment, and they will experience extreme stress and terror at slaughter.

Secondly, rabbits are, shockingly, exempt from the Humane Slaughter Act 85-765. Among other things, this means rabbits may be fully conscious while being slaughtered. They do not need to be stunned before slaughter and an inspector is not required to be present, leaving them vulnerable to the worst kind of abuse with no requirement for documentation or supervision.

Furthermore, rabbit farms will be a breeding ground for disease with so many animals packed and crammed tightly into one space. The highly contagious Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease will thrive in such factory farm conditions, and this could lead to the decimation of both wild and domestic rabbits in the area.

Lastly, there is very little demand for rabbit meat - most people are repulsed at the thought of consuming the third most popular household pet. People are in fact choosing to avoid animal products altogether in record numbers. Whole Foods and other specialty stores have long stopped selling rabbit meat after concluding there was no market for sales.

There is simply no need for such a cruel and backwards step to allow intensive rabbit farming and slaughter in this day and age.

I sincerely hope you will vote No on this extremely cruel, harmful and needless bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours Sincerely,

Jane Deanwood

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